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Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance

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Strengthening humanitarian assistance, emergency relief and rehabilitation in response to the severe drought in the Horn of Africa region

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and other relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions,

Reaffirming the principles of neutrality, humanity, impartiality and independence for the provision of humanitarian assistance, and the need for all actors engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance in situations of complex emergencies and natural disasters to promote and fully respect these principles,

Emphasizing that the affected State has the primary responsibility in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance within its territory and in the facilitation of the work of humanitarian organizations in mitigating the consequences of natural disasters,

Recalling the Updated Comprehensive Framework for Action produced by the United Nations System High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis which, among other things, emphasized the twin-track approach of addressing both

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the immediate humanitarian food crisis and the need for building long-term resilience contributing to food and nutrition security,

Deeply concerned about the critical humanitarian situation in the Horn of Africa region, where the United Nations has declared a state of famine in parts of Somalia, while other parts of Somalia, and parts of Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti are suffering severe food insecurity, and altogether over 13 million people are in need of assistance that saves lives and reduces suffering,

Deeply concerned also about the protracted armed conflict in Somalia, including acts by armed groups which prevent affected populations from receiving or, where necessary, seeking humanitarian assistance as well as obstruct or prevent humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel from discharging their humanitarian functions,

Deeply regretting the loss of human lives and suffering and conscious of the huge loss in crops and livestock sustained and the negative impact on the environment of the drought and famine situation in the Horn of Africa region,

Underlining the urgent need for humanitarian assistance and continued relief, rehabilitation and livelihood assistance, based on assessed needs of members of vulnerable communities, such as destitute pastoralists and farmers, refugees and internally displaced persons,

Highlighting that the humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa, though exceptionally acute at this time, is a protracted one that requires continued commitments by host Governments, the United Nations, international and regional organizations, civil society groups and donors to address humanitarian and developmental challenges,

Welcoming the efforts of the Governments and people of the Horn of Africa region to protect and provide humanitarian assistance to the victims of drought and famine, and welcoming also regional initiatives to address the present humanitarian crisis, build resilience and prevent drought disasters, including the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and East African Community Joint Summit on the Horn of Africa Crisis, held in Nairobi on 8 and 9 September 2011, the African Union pledging conference, held in Addis Ababa on 25 August 2011, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation pledging meeting on Somalia, held in Istanbul on 17 August 2011, and their outcomes,

Welcoming also the holding and outcome of the ministerial mini-summit on the humanitarian response to the Horn of Africa, held in New York on 24 September 2011,

Welcoming further the efforts and assistance of the international community, including donors, the United Nations system, regional organizations, international agencies, and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, as well as non-governmental organizations and private sector entities, in providing relief and in supplementing the efforts of the Governments and people of the Horn of Africa region to combat famine and other effects of drought and food insecurity,

Recognizing that in strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance in the field, United Nations organizations should continue to work in close coordination with national Governments,

1. *Expresses its solidarity, sympathy and support* for the people and Governments of the Horn of Africa region affected by the drought and famine conditions;

2. *Commends* steps taken by the Governments of those affected countries to accommodate refugees, and calls upon the United Nations to continue to work closely with the Governments concerned and other partners in providing necessary assistance to refugees and support to host communities, as appropriate;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the international community, including Governments, the United Nations system, regional organizations, international agencies and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, as well as non-governmental organizations and private sector entities, that are providing emergency relief to the affected populations;

4. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General, the Emergency Relief Coordinator, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat and the United Nations funds and programmes, as well as other humanitarian organizations, for their response, and underlines the urgent need to continue to scale up assistance aimed at alleviating the consequences of the drought in the most affected areas in the Horn of Africa region and to build resilience in the longer term;

5. *Urges* the international community, including relevant international and regional organizations, as well as the private sector and civil society, to continue providing humanitarian assistance and to make contributions to humanitarian funding mechanisms, in response to relevant appeals;

6. *Requests* the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue to lead the efforts to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian assistance and promote partnerships among humanitarian and development actors and urges relevant United Nations and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, as well as other humanitarian and relevant development actors, including civil society, to continue to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian assistance;

7. *Encourages* States and other actors providing humanitarian assistance to improve cooperation with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs so as to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian assistance to the Horn of Africa;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General and all the organs and bodies of the United Nations system, international financial institutions and development agencies to assist the countries of the Horn of Africa region whenever possible through continued effective humanitarian, technical and financial assistance that contributes to building resilience and overcoming the humanitarian situation, in particular food insecurity and chronic water deficiency in the short, medium and long term, in conformity with the priorities identified at the national level;

9. *Calls on* all States to maintain the momentum and political commitment shown at the Summit on the Horn of Africa Crisis, held in Nairobi on 8 and 9 September 2011, in addressing the underlying causes of vulnerability in drought-prone areas and strengthening the resilience of members of drought-affected communities, including pastoralists and agro-pastoralists, through the prioritization

and integration of risk reduction activities, including water management, agricultural development and social protection, into development policies, planning and national resource allocations, and in this regard calls upon the international community to continue to support those efforts;

10. *Requests* the relevant organs and organizations of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations to continue to maintain appropriate support and assistance to national and regional efforts towards strengthening disaster risk reduction, including early warning, disaster preparedness and health and nutrition surveillance capacities of the countries affected;

11. *Condemns strongly* the expulsion of humanitarian organizations, the ban on the activities of humanitarian personnel, and the targeting, hindering or prevention of the delivery of humanitarian assistance in Somalia by armed groups, and deplores any attacks on humanitarian personnel;

12. *Calls on* all States and parties to cooperate fully with the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies and organizations, in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws, and to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel, as well as delivery of supplies and equipment, in order to allow such personnel to save lives and efficiently perform their task of assisting affected civilian populations, including refugees and internally displaced persons;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution under the sub-item entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations".